

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

301 Centennial Mall South

P.O. Box 94946

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4946

Phone (402) 471-2194

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

12:01 a.m. Central Time

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mike Behm

(402) 471-2194

2% DECREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN - Mike Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced today that Nebraska experienced a 2% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2006 compared to 2005. Behm indicated there were 62,420 crimes reported during 2006 compared to 63,809 reported in 2005. These numbers include only the offenses of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the basis for the Crime Index used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced virtually no change with 4,921 violent crimes reported during 2006 compared to 4,932 reported in 2005. Murder, Manslaughter increased 23% (from 43 to 53 offenses). Forcible Rape decreased 6% (from 576 to 540). Robbery increased 9% (from 1,031 to 1,124) and Aggravated Assault decreased 2% (from 3,282 reported in 2005 to 3,204 reported in 2006).

In terms of property crime, a 2% decrease occurred with 57,499 offenses reported in 2006 compared to 58,877 reported in 2005. Burglary decreased 1% (from 9,103 reported in 2005 to 9,034 in 2006). Larceny-Theft decreased 2% (from 44,114 to 43,334). Motor Vehicle Theft decreased 10% (from 5,516 to 4,973) and Arson increased 10% (from 144 in 2005 to 158 in 2006).

“The overall decrease in crime mirrors what is happening nationwide,” said Behm. “The only contrast to the national figures was seen in burglary. Nationwide burglary increased 0.2% while in Nebraska it decreased 1%.”

Crime in Omaha decreased less than 1% (from 24,383 offenses reported in 2005 to 24,292 offenses in 2006). Lincoln experienced a 4% decrease (from 14,088 to 13,512). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 5% decrease (from 16,574 to 15,711). Cities under 5,000 population had a 3% decrease (from 1,251 to 1,211 in 2006). County areas reported a 3% increase (from 7,050 to 7,228). Crime occurring on State Property increased 1% (from 463 to 469).

-MORE-

The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2006 decreased 3% from 2005. In 2006 there were 92,970 arrests compared to 96,229, a decrease of 6,518 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2006 include: Driving under the Influence (13,380 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (12,691 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,520 arrests); Simple Assault (9,213 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (7,878 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) decreased 5%, from 80,991 arrests in 2005 to 77,046 arrests in 2006. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide. Significant decreases were seen in Driving under the Influence (from 14,071 to 13,039), Drug Abuse Violations (from 10,086 to 9,382); and Forgery (from 779 to 560). The only significant increase was seen in Vandalism which went from 1,816 to 1,962 in 2006.

Juvenile arrests increased 5%, from 15,238 in 2005 to 15,924 in 2006. Significant increases were seen in Burglary (from 303 to 383), Fraud (from 57 to 77), Driving Under the Influence (from 295 to 341), Liquor Law Violations (from 2,402 to 2,684) and Disorderly Conduct (from 862 to 959). Drug Abuse Violations showed the largest decrease (from 1,169 to 1,138 arrests).

“It is discouraging to see the number of juvenile arrests continue to increase, especially in the alcohol-related crimes of Driving Under the Influence and Liquor Law Violations,” stated Behm.

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2006 there were 49 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is an 11% increase from the 44 reported in 2005. Racial bias accounted for 57% of the total hate crimes while Ethnic bias accounted for 25%. Religious and sexual bias both accounted for 8% and Gender bias accounted for 2%. Of the hate crimes reported, 25% involved destruction of property and 49% involved simple assault.

The complete 2006 Preliminary Report is available at the Crime Commission's Internet site at www.ncc.state.ne.us